

What is claimed is:

1. A method for displaying data for selection by a user, comprising steps of:
2. providing a data structure comprising a set of first objects with each first object having an
3. associated first string key, a set of second objects with each second object having an associated
4. second string key, and a set of key pairs defining a one-to-one relationship between the first string
5. keys and the second string keys;

6. displaying a user interface having a first interactive panel and a second interactive panel;

7. presenting within the first interactive panel, for selection by a user, the set of first objects;

8. responsive to selection of a first item from the set of first objects, introspecting through

9. the set of key pairs to locate a selected one of the second objects which corresponds to the
10. selected first item; and

11. displaying the located second object within the second panel of the user interface.

1. 2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the first item is a graphical icon.

1. 3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the first item is a text string.

1. 4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the set of first objects is an ordered list.

1. 5. The method according to Claim 4, wherein the ordered list is an outline.

1. 6. The method according to Claim 4, wherein the ordered list is an ordered tree.

1 7. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the located second object is a text string.

1 8. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the data structure is a resource bundle.

1 9. The method according to Claim 8, wherein the resource bundle is a Java

2 ListResourceBundle.

1 10. A method for displaying textual help information through a graphical user interface

2 ("GUI") to a user, comprising steps of:

3 providing a data structure comprising a first array containing pairs of (i) topic key strings
4 and (ii) topic text strings and containing pairs of (i) help text key strings and (ii) help text
5 information, the data structure further comprising a second array containing pairs of topic key
6 strings and help text key strings, wherein a one-to-one relationship is established between the
7 topic key strings and the help text key strings;

8 displaying through the GUI a window having a first interactive panel and a second
9 interactive panel;

10 presenting within the first interactive panel, for selection by the user, a list of topic text
11 strings;

12 responsive to selection of a particular topic text string from the list, introspecting through
13 the second array to locate the help text information corresponding to the selected topic text
14 string; and

15 displaying the located help text information within the second panel of the user interface.

1 11. The method according to Claim 10, wherein the data structure is a Java
2 ListResourceBundle.

1 12. A computer program product for accessing textual data, the computer program product
2 embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

3 computer-readable program code means for encapsulating a data structure comprising a
4 set of first objects with each first object having an associated first string key, a set of second
5 objects with each second object having an associated second string key, and a set of key pairs
6 defining a one-to-one relationship between the first string keys and the second string keys;

7 computer-readable program code means for retrieving the set of key pairs through
8 introspection;

9 computer-readable program code means for displaying a user interface having a first
10 interactive panel and a second interactive panel;

11 computer-readable program code means for presenting within the first interactive panel,
12 for selection by a user, the set of first objects;

13 computer-readable program code means, responsive to selection of a first of the presented
14 objects by the user, for introspecting through the set of key pairs to locate the second string key
15 identifying the second object corresponding to the selected first object;

16 computer-readable program code means for retrieving, from the data structure, the second
17 object identified by the located second string key; and

18 computer-readable program code means for displaying the retrieved second string object
19 within the second panel of the user interface.

1 13. The computer program product according to Claim 12, wherein the data structure is a
2 Java ListResourceBundle.

1 14. The computer program product according to Claim 12, wherein the first objects and the
2 second objects are text strings.

1 15. The computer program product according to Claim 12, wherein the set of key pairs is a
2 two dimensional array with a first dimension containing the first string keys and a second
3 dimension containing the second string keys, wherein each entry in the first and second
4 dimensions defines the one-to-one relationship between first string keys and second string keys.

1 16. A system for displaying data for selection by a user, comprising:
2 means for providing a data structure comprising a set of first objects with each first object
3 having an associated first string key, a set of second objects with each second object having an
4 associated second string key, and a set of key pairs defining a one-to-one relationship between the
5 first string keys and the second string keys;
6 means for displaying a user interface having a first interactive panel and a second
7 interactive panel;
8 means for presenting within the first interactive panel, for selection by a user, the set of

9 first objects;
10 responsive to selection of a first item from the presented set, means for introspecting
11 through the set of key pairs to locate the second object corresponding to the selected first item;
12 and
13 means for displaying the second object within the second panel of the user interface.

1 17. The system according to Claim 16, wherein the first item is a graphical icon.

1 18. The system according to Claim 16, wherein the first item is a text string.

1 19. The system according to Claim 16, wherein the set of first objects is one of (1) an ordered
2 list or (2) an ordered tree.

1 20. The system according to Claim 19, wherein the ordered list is an outline.

1 21. The system according to Claim 16, wherein the located second object is a text string.

1 22. The system according to Claim 16, wherein the data structure is a Java
2 ListResourceBundle.